

February 17, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Brian Thomas, Acting Deputy Director
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

FROM: Julia M. Barto, Project Manager /RA/
Licensing Section
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 8, 2005, SPENT FUEL PROJECT
OFFICE LICENSING PROCESS CONFERENCE

Background

A conference sponsored by the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) was held on February 8, 2005, in Rockville, Maryland. SFPO held the conference as part of the staff's initiative to continuously improve the licensing process for 10 CFR Part 71 and 10 CFR Part 72 licensing actions.

Conference topics included SFPO's "Rules of Engagement" with licensees, lessons learned regarding the existing licensing processes, and an open discussion on ideas for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the licensing process.

Participants included SFPO management and staff, representatives from industry, representatives from government and other interested stakeholders. Participants were encouraged to interact with the NRC staff and with colleagues to discuss insights on how interactions could be more effective and efficient. The list of meeting attendees is attached to this memorandum.

The meeting was noticed on December 9, 2004. No proprietary information was discussed at the meeting.

Discussion

The conference key note speaker was Margaret Federline, Deputy Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. She discussed the need for SFPO processes and procedures to provide a sense of stability and predictability for licensees, applicants, and stakeholders. She emphasized that while the principle focus of a regulator must always be health and safety, that does not mean the regulator should be disengaged from the state of the industry. She also invited the audience to discuss their experiences, both positive and negative, such that SFPO could acknowledge it and factor it into the agency's continuous improvement initiatives.

Bill Brach, SFPO Director, outlined the purpose of the conference. He emphasized that SFPO wanted feedback from its stakeholders regarding the efficiencies and effectiveness of its licensing and certification process for conducting transportation and storage reviews. He stated that SFPO wanted to hear and understand stakeholder comments, suggestions and

recommendations on ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of SFPO programs.

He discussed the structure and purpose of the conference agenda which included three sessions. Session 1, SFPO staff presentations, was meant to provide the audience with the context and backdrop for the SFPO conference. Session 2, a series of individual industry/stakeholder presentations, was meant to inform the audience of concerns and issues relative to things that worked well and things that did not work as well. Session 3, an open dialog, was meant to solicit feedback from all stakeholders.

Session 1

Bill Brach was the first presenter in Session 1. He provided information on a continually growing program for transportation of radioactive material and storage of spent fuel. He stressed that because of the projected increases in workload, SFPO must continually review ways to improve its efficiencies. At the same time, the process must maintain a high level of safety.

He also discussed SFPO's "Rules of Engagement." The rules were disseminated to industry on December 16, 2004, in Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-20, "Lessons Learned from Review of 10 CFR Parts 71 and 72 Applications." These rules were developed 6 years ago and have evolved based on lessons learned. They provide a clearly defined review process.

Christopher Regan, Senior Project Manager in SFPO, discussed RIS 2004-20 in detail, including the six "Rules of Engagement," and the eight examples of "lessons learned."

Session 1 presentation slides are attached to this memorandum.

Session 2

Session 2 consisted of a six-person panel: three representatives from transportation and storage certificate holders, two representatives from independent spent fuel storage installations, and one media press representative. This panel shared their historical perspectives on lessons learned and experiences that they had gained in their interactions with SFPO. Each panel member gave a short 10-15 minute presentation. Session 2 presentation slides are attached to this memorandum. The panel members were:

Charles Vaughan, Global Nuclear Fuels	10 CFR 71 Certificate of Compliance (CoC) Holder
Mark Whittaker, Duratek	10 CFR 71 CoC Holder
Terry Grebel, PG&E	10 CFR 72 Site Specific Licensee
David Jones, Duke Energy	10 CFR 72 General Licensee
Brian Gutherman, CST Associates	Speaking on behalf of 10 CFR 72 CoC Holders
Maureen Conley, Platts/McGraw-Hill	Journalist

Session 3

Session 3 consisted of a facilitated open dialogue with stakeholders. The primary goal of the session was for SFPO to obtain feedback and ideas on how to make the licensing process more effective and efficient while maintaining the high level of safety. This session was facilitated by Chip Cameron, of the NRC's Office of the General Counsel. Mr. Cameron engaged the audience through a list of questions and issues, which were developed prior to the conference and identified through discussions during Session 2. The questions focused on broad licensing process topics, such as communications, schedules and timeliness, quality of requests for additional information (RAIs), safety evaluation reports (SERs), CoCs, Technical Specifications, etc. These questions and topics of discussion are attached to this memorandum.

At the conclusion of Session 3, Bill Brach provided closing comments, in which he explained to the audience the "next steps" that SFPO would take in evaluating the information discussed during the conference. He stated that he would be meeting with the conference planning committee and the SFPO management team to review the information, feedback, and recommendations provided by the stakeholders. He also stated that he would provide a status of SFPO actions taken to implement these recommendations at the Dry Cask Storage Forum meeting in May. In addition, he committed to include this information on NRC's Web Site.

TAC No. L21148

Attachments: 1. Meeting Attendees
2. Session 1, Presentations
3. Session 2, Presentations
4. Session 3, Discussion Topics

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Distribution: NRC Attendees S. Baggett L. Camper, DWMEP F. Cameron, OGC

Filename: E:\Filenet\ML050490253.wpd
Put this file in Package No. ML050450119.

Attachments already in package. Attachment 1 - Meeting Attendees - ML050450122
Attachment 2 - Session 1, Presentations - ML050450124
Attachment 3 - Session 2, Presentations - ML050450126
Attachment 4 - Session 3, Discussion Topics - ML050450128

*see previous concurrence

OFC	SFPO	E	SFPO	C	SFPO	
NAME	JBarto*		EZiegler*		JMonninger	
DATE	2/17/05		2/17/05		2/17/05	

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